Mutual fund mechanism for roads

1753. SHRI R.S. GAVAI: Will the Minister of ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the National Highways Authority of India propose to set up a mutual fund mechanism with capital of Rs. thousand crores infrastructure equity fund for creating market for roads in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether setting up of such a mutual fund mechanism comes under the preview of NHAI;

(d) if not, how such funds can be made operative; and

(e) the measures discussed to safeguard equity investment in such mutual funds?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (e) Do not arise.

Production in SSI sector

1754. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a study by CII shows that production in the small scale industrial sector has been reduced;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether removal of QRs has affected adversely in performance of the small scale sector; and

(d) if so, the steps Government propose to take to improve the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) As reported by CII, the study does not show any reduction in production in Small Scale Sector.

(c) and (d) While removal of Quantitative Restrictions (QRs) has exposed the SSI Sector to greater competition, the Government has put

in several measures to safeguard the interest of domestic industry and to make them competitive both domestically and globally. These include special focus on areas such as technology upgradation, infrastructure assistance through cluster approach, enhanced fiscal support, timely availability of credit, adoption of modern management facilities, use of electronic infrastructure and other IT applications to face the emerging challenges of trade liberalisation. Protection to these industries is available in the form of raising customs duties up to the bound leveles, imposing anti-dumping duties and countervailing duties, taking safeguard measures in case of surge in imports etc. An inter-ministerial group under the chairmanship of Commerce Secretary has also been constituted to assess the impact of removal of quantitative restrictions and suggest suitable corrective measures.

Economic package for SSIs

1755. PROF. M. M. AGARWAL : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the economic package prepared by Government to protect interest of the small scale industries;

(b) whether Government propose to set up door to door cottage/ small scale industries in the rural areas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) A comprehensive policy package to strengthen the small scale sector and enhance its competitiveness both domestically and globally, was announced by the Government on 30th August, 2000. The package of measures provides fiscal incentives, easier access to credit, marketing support, availability of collateral free composite loans upto Rs. 25 lakhs, capital subsidy for technological upgradation and improved infrastructure.

(b) to (d) The Central Government does not set up any small scale industrial (SSI) units. SSI units are set up by individual entrepreneurs. The Central Government supplements these efforts through various schemes/programmes.